

Public Canals and Public Ferries and for the management thereof. No notification or rules have yet been issued under this Regulation. The question of bringing the more important Public Canals and Public Ferries within the scope of the Regulation is engaging the consideration of Government.

Another important Regulation passed during the year was to amend and consolidate the law relating to the Civil Courts. In view to the increasing volume of civil litigation, and the consequent need for giving more of it to the subordinate tribunals, the ordinary jurisdiction of the Munsiffs has been raised from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000, and their small cause jurisdiction from Rs. 30 to Rs. 100. Further, the appellate powers of the District Courts have been increased from suits having a money value not exceeding Rs. 500 to those up to a money value of Rs. 1,000. As a result, it is expected that the work of the Munsiffs will increase; the original work of the District Courts will decrease, but their appellate work will increase; and in the High Court, the regular appellate work will decrease and the second appellate work will increase.

The Police Regulation was amended during the year, so as to give power to Government to impose punitive police in cases of grave disturbance to the public peace, and also to levy from the people responsible compensation for damages caused to public and other property during those disturbances.

Another Regulation passed during the year related to arms, ammunition and military stores. This law came into force on the 1st Vrischikam 1085, and simultaneously with it, a Notification was issued granting exemption to all persons who were considered to be of sufficient respectability to deserve it. In addition to all persons exempted by the British Government by the Notifications issued under the Indian Arms' Act, His Highness' Government have exempted all Sirkar officers whose pay or pension is not less than Rs. 100 per mensem, all persons who are or have been members either of the Legislative Council, or of this Assembly, or of any of the Town Improvement Committees, all persons who pay an assessment of not less than Rs. 100 per annum to Government, all persons who are exempted from attendance in Civil Courts and also all the members of several leading families in the State. Further, all persons living in hilly tracts—as specified in Article 490 of the Civil Service Regulations—were exempted.

16. Criminal Justice:—Under criminal justice, I would mention the circumstance that two more Tahsildars, Agastiswaram and Neyyattinkarai, were relieved of their magisterial functions during the year, so as to enable them to devote their whole time to their revenue work. At present, in four taluks, Tahsildars do not exercise any magisterial duties. The High Court have proposed, in their scheme for the re-organisation of the Courts, to increase the number of Magistrate-Munsiffs, and this, if sanctioned, would relieve a few more Tahsildars of their magisterial functions. His Highness' Government consider that they could not go much further in this direction, as, in the majority of the taluks, the Tahsildars will, if relieved of their magisterial duties, not have enough work to occupy their whole time.